


From: EnergyGuardian <energy@email.energyguardian.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 6:17 AM
To: Coleman, Sam
Subject: Obama to back 'robust' carbon reductions, take new actions

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 Energy and environment headlines for the morning of Tuesday, September 23, 2014





Obama to back 'robust' carbon reductions, take new actions

By Edward Felker



President Barack Obama on Tuesday plans to commit the U.S. to a "robust" post-2020 U.S. carbon reduction target in his speech to the United Nations Climate Summit, according to a senior administration official.

Obama will also unveil additional climate response actions in the speech, the official said. Those include an executive order to federal agencies to consider climate resilience in U.S. international development programs and investments.

He will confirm U.S. participation in 12 new climate change partnerships unveiled at the summit, and, as previously announced, will make available new tools to help developing nations take advantage of U.S. climate scientific and technology resources.

It was unclear from the official, whose comments were made available on condition of anonymity, whether Obama would reveal the exact scope of the U.S. carbon reduction pledge.

Nations are to make their commitments known by next March, which are to form the basis for talks leading to a new post-2020 international climate agreement by the following December.

"Internationally, the U.S. continues to press for an ambitious, inclusive, and pragmatic global climate agreement in 2015, and intends to put forward a robust post-2020 climate commitment in the context of other major economies doing the same," the official said.

Obama will, as senior officials have stressed, stress the actions taken under his Climate Action Plan to rein in U.S. carbon emissions to their lowest levels since the mid-1990s, and his plans to curb output from power plants through proposed new Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

The speech comes as new polling shows a majority of Americans, for the first time in a national poll, say human activity and the burning of fossil fuels is responsible for global warming.

The New York Times/CBS News poll issued Monday found 54 percent hold that view, compared to 31 percent who attribute it to natural processes and 10 percent who say they don't believe global warming is happening.

Climate change still ranks low on the list of problems facing the country, with just 1 percent saying it is the most important. The economy ranked highest, at 19 percent.

Still, 58 percent said the economy should be protected even if some economic growth is risked, compared to 37 percent who said economic growth should be pursued above the environment.

Partisan divides remain over climate issues, in keeping with recent polling. Among Democrats, 67 percent said fossil fuels were responsible for global warming, while only 35 percent of Republicans took that position. A slight majority of independents, 53 percent, blamed fossil fuels.

The poll surveyed 1,000 respondents by telephone from Sept. 10-14 and had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

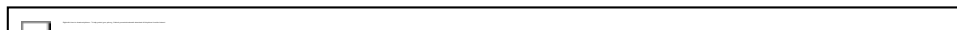
The administration is in the midst of what senior adviser John Podesta last week called a "full court press" to show leadership on climate issues, even as Republicans continue to call on voters to give them a Senate majority in November to fight Obama's agenda.

In what was billed by the White House as the first speech of its kind by the nation's top financial official, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew on Monday pushed back against critics.

At a Brookings Institution forum, Lew contended that Obama is calling for "sensible, modest and gradual changes now" that he said will lead to economic growth and save the U.S. from far greater costs later.

"As an economic matter, the cost of inaction or delay is far greater than the cost of action," Lew argued, pointing to the impacts from rising sea levels, floods, droughts and major storms.

"The economic cost of climate change is not limited to one sector of our economy. It threatens our agricultural productivity, our transportation infrastructure and power grids and drives up the incidence of costly health care problems," he added.



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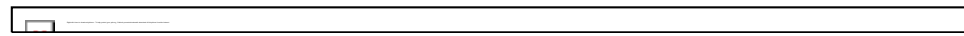
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Upcoming Events



Obama gets coalition on board for Arab strikes

By Julie Pace

NEW YORK (AP) — For President Barack Obama, the participation of five Arab nations in airstrikes against militants in Syria marked an unexpected foreign policy victory as he plunges the U.S. deeper into a military conflict in the Middle East that he has reluctantly embraced.

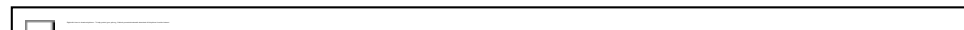
The U.S. announced the strikes hours before Obama was due to arrive in New York for three days of talks with foreign leaders at the annual United Nations General Assembly. The cooperation by Arab partners provided a significant boost to Obama's efforts to build an international coalition to take on the Islamic State militants who have moved freely across the border between Iraq and Syria.

U.S. officials said Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates participated in the strikes against Islamic State targets, as Obama significantly ramped up U.S. military involvement in Syria, a country that has been mired in a brutal three-year civil war.

As Obama arrives in New York for the U.N. meetings, he'll also be facing other crises that highlight the extraordinary range of challenges demanding U.S. attention across multiple continents. He'll speak at a high-level U.N. meeting on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and meet with other leaders to discuss Russia's provocations in Ukraine.

Along with the fight against the Islamic State, the trio of crises has raised questions about the effectiveness of Obama's foreign policy and negatively affected the American public's views of his handling of world affairs.

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Brazil says no to global forest plan

By Alexandra Olson

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite its critical role in protecting the Amazon rainforest, Brazil will not endorse a global anti-deforestation initiative being announced at the U.N. climate summit, complaining it was left out of the consultation process, although a U.N. official disputed that claim.

Brazilian Environment Minister Izabella Teixeira said Brazil was "not invited to be engaged in the preparation process" of the declaration. Instead, she said Brazil was given a copy of the text and asked to endorse it without being allowed to suggest any changes.

"Unfortunately, we were not consulted. But I think that it's impossible to think that you can have a global forest initiative without Brazil on board. It doesn't make sense," Teixeira said in an interview Monday with The Associated Press.

Charles McNeill, a senior environmental policy adviser with the U.N. Development Program, said "there were efforts to reach out to Brazilian government people but there wasn't a response."

"There was no desire to exclude Brazil," said McNeill. "They are the most important country in this area. An effort that involves Brazil is much more powerful and impactful than one that doesn't."

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Limits on overseas mergers prompt renewed debate

By Josh Lederman and Jim Kuhnhen

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration's decision to curb the ability of U.S. corporations to skirt taxes by merging with foreign companies kicked off an immediate election-season debate over when and how to tackle the nation's complex corporate tax code.

Following through on a populist appeal from President Barack Obama for a new era of "corporate patriotism," the Treasury Department stepped in Monday with new regulations designed to limit the ability of U.S. firms to seek refuge in lower tax countries.

The Treasury will make these co-called corporate inversions less lucrative by barring creative techniques that companies use to lower their tax bill. Additionally, the U.S. will make it harder for companies to move overseas in the first place by tightening the ownership requirements they must meet.

"This action will significantly diminish the ability of inverted companies to escape U.S. taxation," Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said. He added that for some companies considering inversions, the new measures would mean inverting would "no longer make economic sense."

The Treasury steps sparked a prompt partisan reaction.

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Philips to separate lighting arm into new company

By Toby Sterling

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Royal Philips NV is to split off its lighting division to create two separate companies, the latest in a string of radical restructurings by one of Europe's best-known corporations.

Philips, which began as a lighting company back in 1891, said Tuesday that "independence" would make it easier for the lighting arm — widely regarded as the dominant seller of LED lighting products — to enter new markets.

"I do appreciate the magnitude of the decision we are taking, but the time is right to take the next strategic step," Chief Executive Frans van Houten said.

Philips, he added, would be open to "consider various options for alternative ownership structures" for the lighting arm — which could include seeking a separate stock market listing for it or selling it directly in part or whole.

Philips will be left with a 'lifestyle' division, which may be most familiar to consumers. It makes a range of household products such as coffee makers and shavers. That will be combined with its health care division, which makes high-tech medical equipment.

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Arizona testing water after Mexican spill warning

By Astrid Galvan and Bob Christie

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Authorities are testing water from the San Pedro River in southern Arizona that may be contaminated with

toxic waste that traveled north after a massive copper mine spill in Mexico this summer.

Mexican officials on Monday issued a binational alert that contaminated water had made its way into the San Pedro River, which runs north to Pinal County in Arizona.

The contamination came from Buenavista del Cobre mine in Cananea, said Carlos Jesus Arias, director of the Sonora state civil protection agency.

Officials have not said how much waste leaked, or what exactly was in the spill.

Arizona authorities say they are trying to get more information about the potential spillover.

Mike Fulton, director of the water quality division of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, said two investigators would take samples from the water closest to the Mexico-U.S. border on Tuesday.

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A message from the American Petroleum Institute

America is now the world's #1 natural gas producer and is expected to become #1 in oil by 2015. Smart energy policies can create jobs, grow our economy and establish America as a global energy leader.

[Learn more at ChooseEnergy.org](http://ChooseEnergy.org)

Bear suspected to have killed New Jersey hiker

By David Porter

WEST MILFORD, N.J. (AP) — A black bear believed to have attacked and killed a hiker over the weekend likely was looking for food and was circling the victim's body when sheriff's officers and wildlife officials killed it, officials said Monday.

The approximately 300-pound male bear was killed with two rifle blasts and is being examined at a state lab for more clues as to why it may have pursued the group of five hikers, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Protection said at a news conference. Killed was Darsh Patel, 22, of Edison, who had come to

the Apshawa Preserve, about 45 miles northwest of New York City, on Sunday with four friends.

State and local officials stressed that bear attacks are rare even in a region of the state that may have as many as 2,400 bruins in its dense forests. DEP spokesman Larry Ragonese said the attack was the first fatal bear-human encounter on record in New Jersey.

"This is a rare occurrence," West Milford police Chief Timothy Storbeck said, noting that his department receives six to 12 calls per week regarding bears, usually involving them breaking into trash cans.

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Fracking Found Innocent of Groundwater Contamination



No evidence of groundwater contamination caused by fracking.

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Prince Charles: Should be urgency to address climate change

In a video recorded for release at the U.N. Climate Summit, Britain's Prince Charles said the issue was the greatest challenge facing mankind, and there's no time to delay in dealing with it, The Telegraph reports.

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Clintons' NY gathering attracting high power celebs

The Clinton Global Initiative may have the biggest draw of stars as New York focuses on climate issues this week, The Washington Post reports.

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Researchers see future crop problems

Researchers at the main campus of the University of Illinois, who are studying the impact climate change may have on food crops in the future, are seeing some potential problems, The New York Times reports.

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Condensate picture unclear, tracking difficult: Sieminski

Tracking how much condensate is being exported, or even how much is being produced, is difficult because agencies don't have standard definitions to go by, Energy Information Administration chief Adam Sieminski said Monday, Platts reports.

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Oil gains on China data

An increase in a Chinese manufacturing gauge beyond analysts' expectations sent oil higher early Tuesday. West Texas Intermediate crude for November delivery gained 61 cents to \$91.48 a barrel in electronic trading on the Nymex, while in London Brent was 40 cents higher at \$97.37, Bloomberg reports.

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No decision yet on OPEC output cut: UAE minister

A decision on lowering OPEC's output target won't be made until ministers gather in Vienna in November, despite comments from the group's Secretary General last week that a cut will likely be coming, the energy minister for United Arab Emirates said Tuesday, Bloomberg reports.

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Chevron assessing interest in Hawaii refinery

Chevron has hired an investment banking firm to see if buyers may be interested in acquiring its operations in Hawaii, including the Kapolei refinery that's one of five the company operates domestically, FuelFix reports.

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Galveston trustees agree LNG lease option

Trustees for the Port of Galveston have inked an agreement to set aside 185 acres on Pelican Island for NextDecade for six months in exchange for \$100,000, as the company explores whether it's feasible to build a facility there for LNG exports, FuelFix reports.

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Smoke from California fires reaches Michigan, Canada

NASA ozone mapping has shown that particulates from smoke generated by half a dozen wildfires burning in northern California has travelled into the airspace of Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, even reaching Canada, the Los Angeles Times reports.

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Ukraine crisis stalls Russian push into EU nuclear industry

Russia had been maneuvering to fill the gap when Germany retreated from developing nuclear power plants in Europe in the wake of the Fukushima disaster, but the effort has been stalled by sanctions imposed over the Ukraine crisis, The Wall Street Journal reports.

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Upcoming Events

- Sep. 23, Washington: President Barack Obama delivers speech on climate change at United Nations summit. 12:45 pm , United Nations.
- Sep. 23, Washington: Arent Fox LLP forum, "Lifting The Ban On US Oil Exports: Yes Or No?" Author Daniel Yergin, U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Karen Harbert, Delta Airlines' Graeme Burnett, League of Conservation Voters' Dan Weiss among speakers. 9:00 am , 1717 K St. N.W.



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